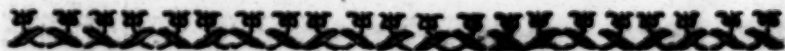


A

L E T T E R

TO HIS E——Y

L——t G——l B——H.



[Price Sixpence.]

LETTER

TO HIS

L. G. I. B. H.

LETTER

TO HIS

L. G. I. B. H.

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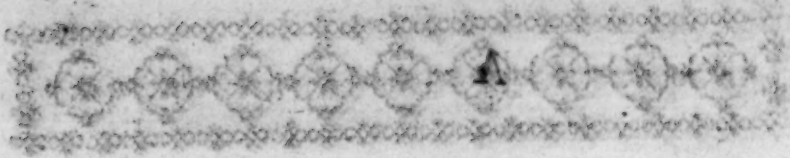
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*Priusquam incipias, consulto, et ubi consulueris
mature Faeto Opus est. Salust.*



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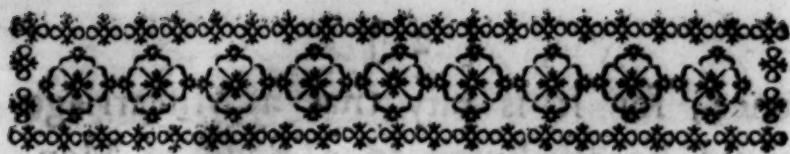
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A
L E T T E R
T O H I S E — — — Y

L — — — t G — — — l B — — — H.

S I R,

Notwithstanding the many Discouragements which those of the Literary Class daily meet with, and that the Courts of Justice, by a too sanguine Interpretation of the Laws, have lately testified their Displeasure with an uncommon Warmth of Temper, and with less Moderation than some others of a contrary Turn of Mind and opposite Complexion may hereafter do, yet such is my Regard to Truth and Concern for the Welfare and Interest of my Country, that I cannot defer this Epistolary Correspondence

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dence; for it is pity that a Miscarriage should be attributed to a Body of Men, which is only chargeable upon one or two Commanders; and in this I think I act generously by your Excellency, in giving you an Opportunity of vindicating yourself from the several Steps complained off, and of giving Satisfaction to the Publick by a fair and candid Representation of your Conduct.

It is universally allowed, that Secrecy and good Intelligence are the very Life and Soul of every Expedition? If an Enemy is to be attacked in a Place he little expected, his Camp is not to be surprized by the Sound of Trumpets and beat of Drums at a Distance: No, it is to be set upon un-awares, and to be surprized in a Moment.

Secrecy has indeed been used on the Part of the Ministry in one Sense to the Advantage of the Expedition, tho' not in another. The Destination of the Forces lay hid in the Breast of the Prime Minister, but the Situation of the *French* Bays and Harbours seem to have been kept a Secret from you; and hence the Spring of
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the Disaster, which at first Sight throws a Reproach upon the Nation, while so many Individuals have smarted thro' an irreparable Loss sustained in the general Calamity.

Its agreed, Sir, on all Hands, that the Troops disembarked on the 4th of *September*, with the Loss of only eight Men, who were drowned; an Accident which might happen in the best conducted Expedition, and which the most extensive Forefight could not prevent. But truly, Sir, I cannot think it extraordinary Prudence to land a Body of Men at a Port, where, in Case of an Emergency, they could not be re-imbarked with the same Facility; and as the Bay of *St. Lunaire* abounds with Rocks, and is foul, and that the Sea rushes into it with great Impetuosity, as the same is narrow, it does not at all seem agreeable to that Prudence and Circumspection which an Enterprize of such Consequence required, and which might have been expected from an Officer of fifty Years Experience, to land the Forces there; and as the Coast extended itself, and

run out into the Sea at the Distance of several Miles from the Place of Landing ; so it gave a palpable Advantage to the Enemy to put the Forces ashore at this Place, and naturally suggested to them a Probability of collecting a Number of Troops, sufficient to destroy the Invaders before these could finish their March, or arrive at a Place proper for re-imbarking.

I am, Sir, extremely desirous to believe, that neither you, nor Lord *Howe*, fell into the dangerous Mistake of despising your Enemy. Both your Excellency and his Lordship knew that you were going on an Expedition to the Coast of *France* ; and the publick Papers informed you, that the Court of *Versailles* was preparing against an Attack on the Coast of *Britanny* and *Normandy* ; the Names of the chief Commanders were not concealed ; for Secrecy of this Kind would not be adviseable. The Fame of the Duke *d'Aguillon*, and what he was capable of doing, was no less known than his Courage and Conduct were admired. His Grace had served under the Prince of *Conti* in *Italy*, witnessed the Stratagems

tagems and Feints of that great Commander; and what is more, he was actuated by a Principle of Honour, and a fervent Zeal to promote the Glory of the grand Monarch. The Count *de la Tour d'Auvergne*, and the Marquis *de Cuicé*, had been Witnesses of the Skill and Address with which Count *Coigny* and Marshal *Saxe* had extricated themselves from surrounding Difficulties. The Name of the Chevalier *de Polignac* is frequent enough in the Histories of the late War; and to his Character, neither his Lordship nor your Excellency can be presumed to be a Stranger.

If, Sir, such Intimations were given of the uncommon Preparations of the most politic Enemy, it certainly was not below the most spirited and enterprizing Commander to use a little Craft and Stratagem, or at least to weigh Things in the Ballance of cool and impartial Reflection; and not to be so elevated with some former Success, as to dream of nothing but one uninterrupted Course of good Fortune. The more successful the former Expedition, the more ought you to have been upon your Guard;

Guard ; since to be puffed up with a Glimse of Success at first, is usually attended with Disappointment in the Issue. But, Sir, tho' the Landing at *Lunaire Bay* might be passed over as one of the least Mistakes, yet there is something in the next Step which I wish could be reconciled to the Rules of Prudence and Discretion in Affairs of that Kind ; I mean the undetermined and fluctuating Disposition of the principal Commanders, with regard to the Attack of *St. Maloes*.

It is hardly to be supposed, that an Officer of General B—'s Experience should still be hovering and doubtful at so critical a Juncture ; the Council of War, might have determined the Question, Attack *St. Maloes*, or not ! as well on Ship-board as on the Coast of *France*. There certainly were people on board the *Effex* well acquainted with *St. Maloes*, which, in Time of Peace, is so much frequented, that almost every Master of a Brig on the Coast, from *Dover* to the *Lizard*, have been some Time or other in it. And it is no Way incredible, that the Smugglers of *Guernsey*

sey and *Alderney* were acquainted there. The coasting Vessels of *St. Aubin*, *St. Hilary*, and *Somaris*, upon the Isle of *Jersey*, are almost every Day at *St. Maloes*. By Means of these, and other Coasters, sufficient Intelligence might have been procured.

An Attack upon *St. Maloes* has ever been judged impracticable; like the antient *Tyre*, it is built in the Sea, among Rocks and Shallows. The *English* have tried the Experiment, and still come off with Loss; as in the Year 1694, when an Admiral of consummate Experience, and undaunted Courage, attacked it with a formidable Force, which yet was baffled by these hidden Barriers, which Nature had thrown in the Way. Nor does it appear from History, that ever any Advantage was gained by the *English* at *St. Maloes*, like that which the illustrious Duke of *Marlborough* lately obtained.

This Expedition was one of those, where in the Truth of the Maxim was confirmed, "Fortune favours the Brave!" for the
Governor

Governor of *St. Maloes*, by his too great Care, outdid myself, and contributed to forward the Progress, and adorn the Temples of the Duke of *Marlborough*: For had the Ships, which he drew into the Basin between the Town and the Continent, been drawn up between *Fort Royal d' Iffele*tt and *Chatteau de St. Vincent*, or close by *Fort du Grande Baye*, they might have been defended by the Artillery of these Forts, and by the Fire of the Batteries of the Town; which, partly from the good State of the Garrison, and partly from the wise Conduct of the noble Commander, in not spending the Time upon a fruitless Siege, continued unmolested.

His Grace was not sent to carry on War after the Manner of the *Tartars* and *Cossacks*, who spare nothing; *they* burn the Towns they have plundered, and turn the most fruitful and pleasant Countries into frightful Wilds, and hideous Desarts; Men and Women, Boys and Girls, are compelled to follow them, while the Throats of old People and Infants are cut from Ear to Ear. No! His Grace shewed an Example

ple of Moderation and Politeness, hitherto unknown among the Marshals of *France*; whose Towns it is the Interest of no *Englishman* to destroy. The Business of the Court of *Britain* is to ruin their Shipping, as at *St. Maloes*; fill up their Harbours, as at *Cherburgh*; and cut off their Communication with their Settlements in *America*, as lately has been done. There is no personal Animosity between the *French* and *English*, however the Interest of the two may clash together; the Discord flows from the Situation of either Place; both grasp at an universal Trade; and, indeed, the present War is concerning Commerce. Suppose an Exchange to be made between the *English* and *French*, and that by mutual Consent the Kingdoms were bartered, the Animosity would scarce cease with the Exchange; both would be equally selfish and interested, and equally endeavour to enhance Trade into their own Ports at the Expence of the other. Convinced of this, and prompted by the Sentiments of Humanity and Goodness, which shine with such Lustre in his Grace's Character, the Operations of the Army under his Command

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were

were confined to destroying the Marine; for, in the Eyes of his very Enemies, the Name of the Duke of *Marlborough* is mentioned with Veneration, and his Actions command an universal Applause. How far your Excellency has imitated so illustrious a Pattern, will be discovered in Time; and I do assure you, that none shall be more ready than your humble Servant to sound your Applause, if upon Trial it appears that you have followed an Example so generous and noble in itself, and so striking to every unbiaſſed and unprejudiced Spectator.

How fortunate for yourself as Commander, and the numerous Patriots who died in the Cause of their Country, that the 6th of *September*, 1758, had not been spent in fruitless Councils of War, upon the Theatre of Action, at least the Troops might have been reimbarked as safely as they had been landed the Day before.

But, Sir, as you were now in an Enemies Country, and witnessed the Effects of their Vigilance and Care, since the Time
of

of the last Descent, it was natural to imagine, that they had been equally careful in providing for the Defence of other Places: It scarce admitted of a Doubt, that the *French* Forces were posted in the most convenient Station for uniting together, in order to prevent the Effects of any future Landing; and as the Design of a Descent was entirely to destroy the Marine, an Incursion into the Country might have been dispensed with, or at least a few light Horsemen were sufficient to answer any Purposes of that Kind. But it does not appear to me that there was any skilful Generalship in making the Foot Regiments lose sight of the Fleet; and certainly the Kingdom of *France* is not without Roads and Highways along their Coasts. Neither indeed can I approve entering *Matignon*, an inland Town, with Drums beating and sound of Trumpet, in order, no doubt, to proclaim the Approach of the *British* Army: For as the *British* Forces were not sent over to strike a Terror into the naked Parts of the Countries, so these Instruments of infusing Terror might have

been dispensed with. When *Charles XII.* of *Sweden* entered *Dantzick*, a City far more populous and rich than *Matignon*, at the Head of 4000 Grenadiers, all these formalities were deferred, the Colours were only displayed.

But passing over the March into *Matignon* and *Briac*, I cannot, Sir, but express my Surprize at mistaking the Time of High-water at the River which runs by the latter Place; you certainly knew the Age of the Moon, or at least, there were People in the Army who knew so much of the Motion of that Luminary, and of the Tides which are regulated by it, as could prevent so great a Mistake as you seem to have fallen into: A Mistake of this Kind, especially when the Army was so near it, appears somewhat strange to me: Perhaps the Scouts, sent out to get Intelligence, like *Aristotle* of old, were so intent upon Enquiries into the Origin of Tides, and the Cause of the different Phenomena there, that they forgot to make their Report.

But

But, not to dwell on these Things, I beg leave to expostulate with your Excellency upon the last Step, immediately preceding the Disaster.

On the 10th, you received undoubted Information, that the Duke *d'Aiguillon* was advancing to give you Battle, with eleven Regiments of Foot and five of Horse; with ten Pieces of Cannon and two Mortars; and that the Design was to attack the Troops under your Command next Morning.

As their Force was superior to yours, and that you wanted the proper Artillery, it would not have been agreeable to the Circumspection used by the greatest Officers, at this Time, when the Art of War is so much improved, to have waited for the Enemy: And so I heartily approve of the Resolution taken, to return to the Bay of *St. Cas*, where the Fleet then lay; and was ready to second your Operations.

But though I highly commend the Resolution

solution to retreat, and cannot sufficiently
 admire the Diligence of Commodore *Howe*,
 in getting the flat-bottom'd Boats ready to
 receive the Troops, and conduct them on
 Board as these arrived ; yet I humbly am of
 Opinion, that the Letter which you sent by
 Express to the Commodore, ought to have
 asked something more than it did ; and it
 will scarce admit of a Doubt, that his
 Lordship would have chearfully complied
 with any reasonable Desire, for promoting
 the Glory of his King, the Advantage and
 Honour of his Country, especially when
 accompanied by one of the Branches of the
 Royal Family, who bears the Name at
 which *France* so frequently trembled, and
 bled prostrate at every Vein. It would
 have been as prudent in you, as advanta-
 geous to the Expedition, to have desired
 of the Commodore, some Artillery ; sup-
 pose twenty Pieces of Cannon, and four
 Mortars, with Engineers and Matrosses in
 Proportion ; as also all the useful Hands he
 could conveniently spare : In Case your
 Excellency had made such a Requisition,
 the same would have been complied with.

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The Volunteers, and of these there was a considerable Number, some of them of the best Blood in the Nation, who would have discovered an Emulation to be set on Shore: The honourable Sir *John Armitage*, Mr. *Delaval*, and others, too numerous here to mention, would, with Pleasure, have ventured their Lives in the Company of his Royal Highness Prince *Edward*, and vied with each other in signalizing themselves under the Eye of the young Hero: In this Case you would have been welcomed by the loud Huzzas and Acclamations of the Party sent from on Board to your Assistance. Instead of the flat-bottom'd Boats to take the Troops on Board, you would have been presented with the View of two or three Batteries of Cannon, sufficient to have silenced those of the Enemy; and instead of ordering the Troops to leap into the Boats, you would have encouraged them to stand their Ground, and animate them with the Prospect of so powerful a Reinforcement. This, Sir, is what I really believe *Edward* the Black Prince, or *Henry* the Fifth would readily have done; for
 who-

whoever peruses the plain and accurate Description of the Battles of *Poitiers* and *Cressy*, by the ingenious Dr. *Smollett*, and compares the Situation and Number of the *English* Forces under the Black Prince, with the Situation and Number of those under your Command, he will find that the Disproportion of the *French* and *British* Forces at *Poitiers* was twenty Times greater than at the Disaster near the Bay of *St. Cas*. If you had been in the Pay of *France*, and concerted Measures with the Duke *d'Aiguillon*, you could not have acted more to the Satisfaction of the Court of *Versailles*. Whether the Fault proceeded from your Excellency, or from General *D—y*, is best known to yourself. One Thing appears evident to me, that instead of marching up with the Grenadeers to give the Enemy Battle, while the other Troops were embarking; you ought to have waited, in a full Body, to divert them during the Landing of the Succours from the Fleet; in which Case the Time would have been, at least, prolonged till Night, under Favour of which,
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the Troops might have been reimbarcked, the Effusion of Blood would have been prevented, and the *British* Arms crowned with a Success under the Eyes of an enterprizing young Hero of the Royal Family, far exceeding any Conquest; for it is more Honour to bring off an Army, than to gain a Victory; an honourable Retreat proclaims the Skill and Conduct of a General, more than gaining of a Battle; and to pass Defiles in the Face of an Enemy, is reckoned a Master-piece in the Art of War, and was the most sparkling Gem in that Crown of Applause, which the Generals of the last Age unanimously conferred upon the Head of the Sagacious Marshal *Turenne*.

The Circumstances of the Attack itself will, I am much afraid, appear no Way consistent with that Skill and Conduct which an Affair of so much Importance required; and as the *French* were too knowing to pass a Hollow Way, so neither ought any Corps of the Troops under

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der your Command. The Historian *Voltaire*, whose Account of the Battle of *Dettingen*, in the History of the War 1741, was revised by the Marshal Duke *de Noailles*, before it was sent to the Press, asserts, that the Loss of the Battle of *Dettingen* was intirely owing to the Duke *de Gramont* passing the Hollow Way; on the Brink of which, the *French* Army was drawn up, and at the Head of which several masked Batt^{ies} were fixed for enfilading the *British* Troops as they were passing: And I am heartily sorry to think, that General *D—y* should have committed a greater Mistake than the Duke of *Gramont's* Vigour and Heat of Youth hurried him into; and what is still more remarkable, *D—y* had no Cannon to support him, which the *French* General abounded with. These, Sir, among, other Things, are complained of by the Populace: And, at this Time, their Resentment and Clamour are levelled at you; tho', indeed, I think you are only the Instrument of the late disaster,

after, while another, in a higher and more exalted Station, is the principal Cause.

The Minister, whose Redundancy of Speech, like a Torrent, breaks down the Fences of Opposition, and bursts the Barriers of Party and Faction, was not ignorant, that your Excellency's great Age and Infirmities, could not promise all that Spirit and Activity requisite in an Expedition of such Importance, as that whereon you was sent; he must have known, that for many Years, you had retired from public Business to enjoy a Repose, which your great Age so loudly called for: What Arguments that **GREAT MAN** will use to palliate the Choice, may possibly appear hereafter; and his imagination is abundantly fruitful: I shall only say, that seldom or never does a solid and discerning Judgment attend an Overflow of Words, and too impetuous a Volubility of Tongue; for it is observable, that where these prevail, a Solidity of Understanding and Reach of Thought, are generally wanting, or at least defective and scanty: So taking the Matter in this View, I humbly
am

am of an Opinion, that a Petition ought to be presented to his Majesty, not for ordering an Enquiry into your Conduct, as the Cause of the late Miscarriage; but that he would be graciously pleased to order that the Names of the Ministers who advised him to commit the Care of an Expedition of the last Importance to a superannuated Gentleman, might be laid before the Parliament, that so Justice may overtake those who deserve Punishment.

I am &c.



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